CLAIMS

1. A method for verifying that data received by a receiver (2) have been sent by a transmitter (1, 3) authorized by a trusted third party, the transmitter and the receiver being connected to a digital network, characterized in that an identifier (IdEvent) is associated with the data sent by the transmitter and in that the method comprises the steps consisting, for the receiver (2), in:

(a) generating a random number (C);

(b) broadcasting said random number over the network;

(c) receiving from the transmitter a response (R) computed by applying a first function (G) to said random number (C) and to said identifier (IdEvent);

(d) verifying the received response (R) by applying a second function (H) to the received response (R), to said random number (C) and to said identifier (IdEvent);

the first function (G) having previously been delivered to the transmitter by the trusted third party and the second function (H) being a function for verifying the result of the first function, previously delivered by the trusted third party to the receiver.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, in which the step (b) is replaced by a step consisting in sending said random number (C) to the transmitter.

3. The method as claimed in claim 1, in which the receiver also transmits said identifier (IdEvent) in the step (b).

4. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the receiver inhibits access to said data if the response (R) received in the step (c) is not correct or if no response is received after the expiry of a predetermined time starting from the transmission of the random number (C).

5. A method for proving that data sent to a receiver (2) have been transmitted by a transmitter (1, 3) authorized by a trusted third party, the transmitter and the receiver being connected to a digital network, characterized in that an identifier (IdEvent) is associated with the data sent

by the transmitter and in that the method comprises the steps consisting, for the transmitter (1, 3) in:

(a) receiving a random number (C) from the receiver (2);

(b) computing a response (R) by applying a first function (G) to said random number (C) and to said identifier (IdEvent);

(c) sending said response (R) to the receiver (2);

said response being likely to be verified by the receiver by applying a second function (H) to the received response (R), to said random number (C) and to said identifier (IdEvent);

the first function (G) having previously been delivered to the transmitter by the trusted third party and the second function (H) being a function for verifying the result of the first function, previously delivered by the trusted third party to the receiver.

6. The method as claimed in claim 5, in which the transmitter also receives in the step (a) said identifier (IdEvent) associated with the data received by the receiver and in which the steps (b) and (c) are not carried out unless said identifier received in the step (a) corresponds to the identifier associated with the data that the transmitter has just sent.

7. The method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the identifier associated with the data sent by the transmitter is a random number generated by the initial transmitter of the data in the network and attached to said data by the initial transmitter.

8. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the first function (G) is a public function using a secret key.

9. The method as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that the second function (H) is a boolean function

computing an expected response by applying to said random number (C) and to said identifier (IdEvent) the first function (G) with the secret key and

comparing the expected response with the response received in order to deliver:

- a "0" value if the expected and received responses are different and

- a "1" value if the expected and received responses are equal.

10. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that the first function (G) is a secret function.

11. The method as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that the second function (H) is a boolean function

computing an expected response by applying the first function (G) to said random number (C) and to said identifier (IdEvent) and

comparing the expected response with the received response in order to deliver:

- a "0" value if the expected and received responses are different and

- a "1" value if the expected and received responses are equal.

12. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that the first function (G) is a public function for signature generation with the aid of a private key.

13. The method as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that the second function (H) is a public function for signature verification with the aid of a public key corresponding to the private key used by the first function.